

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

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S E C R E T STATE 154763

EXDIS- MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, LA, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF EMBASSY OR BREAK IN RELATIONS
WITH PGNU

REF: VIENTIANE 4527

MILITARY ADDRESSEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH MISSION VIEW THAT DETERIORATION
IN RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND PGNU HAS COME ABOUT AT LAO
INITIATIVE AND THAT ANY FORMAL CHANGE SHOULD BE TAKEN IN
SUCH A WAY AS TO SHOW THAT THE ONUS FOR SUCH CHANGE RESTS
WITH THE LAO. LATEST EVENTS REINFORCE THIS VIEW.

2. TWO ALTERNATIVES ARE AVAILABLE IF THE SITUATION DETERIO-
RATES TO POINT WHERE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES, IN CONSULTATION

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WITH YOU, THAT MISSION CAN NO LONGER FUNCTION.

A. CLOSURE OF MISSION. REMAINING MISSION EMPLOYEES WOULD BE WITHDRAWN AND PGNU NOTIFIED THAT BECAUSE OF SITUATION THEN OBTAINING, MISSION COULD NOT CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS. CLOSURE WAS COURSE OF ACTION FOLLOWED IN THE CASE OF TEHRAN IN 1956, BRAZZAVILLE IN 1965, AND KAMPALA IN 1973. THIS COURSE OF ACTION HAS SOMETIMES BEEN REFERRED TO AS "SUSPENSION" OF RELATIONS.

B. BREAKING OF RELATIONS. THIS CAN BE VERY TEMPORARY OR LONG TERM. RECENT PRACTICE HAS BEEN TO AVOID THE EXTREME OF BREAKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS EVEN WHERE PROVOCATIONS WERE SEVERE. IN CASE OF EITHER CLOSURE OR BREAK IN RELATIONS, UNDER VIENNA CONVENTION, TO WHICH BOTH US AND LAOS ARE PARTIES, RECEIVING STATE IS OBLIGATED TO RESPECT AND PROTECT PREMISES OF MISSION AND SENDING STATE IS ENTITLED TO ENTRUST PROTECTION OF ITS MISSION AND INTERESTS TO A THIRD STATE ACCEPTABLE TO RECEIVING STATE.

3. IF RELATIONS ARE "SUSPENDED," THEY CAN BE REINSTITUTED WITHOUT NEW AGREEMENT AND LAOS EMBASSY IN US COULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE. IF RELATIONS ARE BROKEN, REINSTITUTION REQUIRES NEW FORMAL ACT AND LAOS EMBASSY HERE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FUNCTION.

4. WE HAVE MISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SUITABLE COUNTRIES TO SERVE AS PROTECTING POWER IN THE EVENT OF A CLOSURE UNDER CONSIDERATION AND WILL ADVISE. INGERSOLL

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